



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

would ask how I could, when I read my paper on the 16th March, 1832, before the American Philosophical Society, know of a description in Griffith's Cuvier dated 1834? (not in 1833, as incorrectly cited). *Douglasia* therefore cannot have precedence "of some years," as claimed for it, but it must remain a synonym to *Murchisonianus*, where I placed it in my *Synopsis*, first, second, and third editions, since 1836.

As regards the claim in the same paragraph for *U. Shanghaiensis*, Lea, being also a synonym to *Douglasia*, I am constrained to differ in opinion. *Shanghaiensis* is not the same with *Douglasia*, as affirmed, but it is the same with *U. Osbeckii*, Philippi, the description of which I had not seen. "Conchylien, vol. 3d." Some years since I placed it as a synonym to *Osbeckii* in the manuscript copy of my *Synopsis*, 4th ed., preparing for the press.

2d. *Anodonta tenuis*, Gray,—also called *Unio tenuis*, Gray, in Griffith's Cuvier,—is considered to be, by Messrs. Baird and Adams, an *Anodonta*, and it is said to be little known. This shell does not belong to either of these genera. It is a true *Dipsas* of Leach, and if Dr. Gray had had a perfect specimen before him when describing *Anodonta tenuis*, he never would have placed it in that genus. The *Dipsasian* character was evidently obliterated by age in the specimen from which he made his diagnosis. The young specimens, and the mature perfect ones, always have the tooth (so to call it) of the genus *Dipsas*. I described this species in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, March 15, 1833, under the name of *Symphynota discoidea*, with a figure perfectly representing the characteristic tooth, which consists of a single raised, slightly curved line under the dorsal margin. In my "Synopsis," in the first edition in 1836, as well as in the second and third editions, I gave Dr. Gray's *tenuis* as a synonym to this shell, which I there placed in the genus *Dipsas*, where it properly belongs. It must therefore stand as *Dipsos discoidea*, Lea, with the synonym of *Anodonta tenuis*, Gray; my date being 1833, and Dr. Gray's 1834.

In this paper of Messrs. Baird and Adams, they have described a supposed new species from Shanghai, under the name of *Unio (Lampsilis) subtortus*. I previously published a description of a species which I believe will prove the same, under the name of *tortuosus*, in the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. April 18, 1865. Since then I have found in the "Journal de Conchiliologie," July, 1863,—which work for that year was not accessible to me,—that Messrs. Crosse and Debeaux had given a description and an excellent figure of a *Unio* of the same twisted character, under the name of *Tientsinensis*, which, if the figure be entirely correct, differs in the form of the posterior slope, and in the undulations of that part.

I may be permitted to express my surprise that neither the French nor the English authors should have observed the very remarkable character of these Chinese species, which were before them, in being *inequivalve*! The figure in the *Journal de Conchiliologie* seems to be very correctly delineated by the artist, having represented the *inequivalve* condition of the right and left valves.

Messrs. Baird and Adams refer to *Tientsinensis*, but consider it to differ in some respects from their *subtortus*, which I think very likely. If *Tientsinensis* prove to be the same as *tortuosus* and *contortus*, then the two last must be synonyms. If not, then there will be two species, viz.: *Tientsinensis*, Grosse and Debeaux, and *tortuosus* (nobis),—*contortus*, B. and A., being a synonym to *tortuosus*.

May 5th.

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The following paper was presented for publication: "List of
[May,

Birds collected at Laredo, Texas, in 1866 and 1867." By Dr. H. B. Butcher.

May 12th.

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following were presented for publication: "Description of Four new species of Exotic Unionidæ," and "Description of Twenty-six new species of Melanidæ of the United States." By Isaac Lea, LL.D.

"Monœcism in *Luzula campestris*," and "Variations in *Epigea repens*." By Thos. Meehan.

Prof. Edw. D. Cope defined the characters of a new genus of Cheloniidæ, which represented the modern marine turtles in the Cretaceous green sand of New Jersey. It differed in the considerably greater co-ossification of the disc and marginal bones posteriorly and anteriorly. The anterior rib is attached to one marginal in advance of that to which it is connected in *Chelone*. He called it *Ostrœopygis*, and exhibited a specimen of the type species—*O. emarginatus* Cope—of which about half the carapace and plastron were preserved, and which indicated an animal of about the size of the green turtle. It was presented to the Academy by Dr. Samuel Ashhurst.

Prof. Cope stated that he was more or less acquainted with four species of the genus: *O. sopitus* (*Chelone* Leidy), *O. chelydrinus* Cope, and *O. repandus* Cope, all of the same or larger size than the type.

May 19th.

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

Prof. Cope called attention of the Academy to the rarity of Ophidian remains, and to the fact that none had been discovered in North America up to the present time. He then exhibited two vertebræ of a serpent of or near the family of the Boas, from the green sand of Squankum, Monmouth Co., N. J., which had been discovered by Dr. Knieskern.

Peculiar interest attached to these specimens, from the fact that they came from a bed which has recently been stated, by Conrad, to be an equivalent of the older Eocene or London clay of the Thames valley. They confirm this identification exactly, since they belong to Owen's genus *Palæophis*, which is characteristic of those beds in England. They indicate a species intermediate between the two larger described by Prof. Owen, and of some fifteen feet in length. It was associated with remains of crocodiles, sting-rays and saw-fishes, and was named, from its geographical and geological location, *PALÆOPHIS LITTORALIS* Cope.

The type specimens belong to the Geological Survey of New Jersey, under Prof. George Cook, and were lent by him for description.

Dr. Hayden read a letter from Prof. Leo Lesquereux, identifying the fossil plants of the coal formation of the south-west, as follows:

"I was unwell when your boxes of fossil plants arrived, and was not able to examine the specimens before now.

1868.]